

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. HJ0001

Pornography as a public health crisis.

Sponsored by: Representative(s) Lone, Blackburn, Clem, Edwards, Gray, Jennings and Olsen

A JOINT RESOLUTION

for

1 A JOINT RESOLUTION recognizing pornography is a public  
2 health crisis leading to a broad spectrum of individual and  
3 public health impacts and societal harms.

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5 WHEREAS, pornography perpetuates a sexually toxic  
6 environment; and

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8 WHEREAS, efforts to prevent pornography exposure and  
9 addiction, to educate individuals and families concerning  
10 its harms and to develop recovery programs must be  
11 addressed systemically in ways that hold broader influences  
12 accountable; and

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14 WHEREAS, pornography is contributing to the  
15 hypersexualization of teens, and even prepubescent  
16 children, in our society; and

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2 WHEREAS, due to advances in technology and the universal  
3 availability of the internet, young children are exposed to  
4 what used to be referred to as hardcore but is now  
5 considered mainstream pornography at an alarming rate; and

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7 WHEREAS, the average age of exposure to pornography is now  
8 eleven (11) to twelve (12) years of age; and

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10 WHEREAS, this early exposure to pornography is leading to  
11 low self-esteem and body image disorders, an increase in  
12 problematic sexual activity at younger ages and an  
13 increased desire among adolescents to engage in risky  
14 sexual behavior; and

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16 WHEREAS, exposure to pornography often serves as children's  
17 sex education and shapes their sexual templates; and

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19 WHEREAS, because pornography treats women as objects and  
20 commodities for the viewer's use, it teaches girls they are  
21 to be used and teaches boys to be users; and

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1 WHEREAS, pornography normalizes violence and abuse of women  
2 and children and often depicts rape and abuse as if it is  
3 harmless; and

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5 WHEREAS, pornography equates violence towards women and  
6 children with sex, which increases the demand for sex  
7 trafficking, prostitution, child sexual abuse images and  
8 child pornography; and

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10 WHEREAS, potential detrimental effects on users of  
11 pornography can impact brain development and functioning,  
12 contribute to emotional and medical illnesses, shape  
13 deviant sexual arousal and lead to difficulty in forming or  
14 maintaining intimate relationships as well as problematic  
15 or harmful sexual behaviors and addiction; and

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17 WHEREAS, recent research indicates that pornography is  
18 potentially biologically addictive, which means the user  
19 requires more novelty, often in the form of more shocking  
20 material, in order to be satisfied; and

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22 WHEREAS, this biological addiction leads to increasing  
23 themes of risky sexual behaviors, extreme degradation,

1 violence and child sexual abuse images and child  
2 pornography; and

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4 WHEREAS, pornography use is linked to a decreased desire in  
5 young men to marry, dissatisfaction in marriage and  
6 infidelity; and

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8 WHEREAS, this link demonstrates that pornography has a  
9 detrimental effect on the family unit; and

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11 WHEREAS, overcoming pornography's harms is beyond the  
12 capability of the afflicted individual to address alone;  
13 and

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15 WHEREAS, pornography is thus creating a public health  
16 crisis.

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19 *NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE MEMBERS OF THE*  
20 *LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF WYOMING:*

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22 **Section 1.** That the state of Wyoming recognizes that  
23 pornography is a public health crisis leading to a broad

1 spectrum of individual and public health impacts and  
2 societal harms.

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4       **Section 2.** That the state of Wyoming recognizes the  
5 need for education, prevention, research and policy change  
6 at the community and societal level to address the  
7 pornography epidemic that is harming the people of our  
8 state and nation.

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(END)